

CLAIMS

[1] A method for decomposing a plastic, said method comprising the step of treating a thermosetting resin which comprises a polyester and its crosslinking moiety, with subcritical water of a temperature lower than the thermal decomposition temperature of the thermosetting resin.

[2] The method according to claim 1, wherein the subcritical water contains an alkaline salt.

[3] The method according to claim 2, wherein the alkaline salt is a hydroxide of an alkaline metal.

[4] The method according to claim 2, wherein the content of the alkaline salt is not less than 2 molar equivalents relative to the theoretical number of the moles of an acid residue which is contained in a compound comprising the acid residue derived from the polyester and a residue derived from the crosslinking moiety, obtained by the decomposition of the thermosetting resin.

[5] A method for decomposing a plastic, said method comprising

the step (a) of treating a thermosetting resin which

comprises a polyester and its crosslinking moiety, with subcritical water of a temperature lower than the thermal decomposition temperature of the thermosetting resin, and

the step (b) of recovering a compound comprising an acid residue derived from the polyester and a residue derived from the crosslinking moiety, obtained in the step (a).